

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1776, April 4, 1953

## LUNCH WITH THE LYONS

Richard and Barbara entertain  
a C N representative

One of the most popular families in all Britain is an American one—the famous quartet of Ben Lyon and Bebe Daniels with their children Barbara and Richard.

And their popularity is growing. On Saturday, for instance, Barbara is due to fly to New York to take part in a nation-wide T V programme which lasts only half an hour—and then to fly straight back to London so as not to miss her part in *Life With the Lyons*.

A C N representative has had the privilege of lunching with Barbara and Richard at their London home, and has written this lively account of his meeting with them.

"I HOPE you're not expecting anything much for lunch," said Barbara Lyon. "Richard does the catering now, and we never know what we're going to get. In fact, we're lucky if we eat at all."

Barbara, in black jersey and flared skirt, sat upright on a stool, a model of deportment. Richard, in baggy trousers and a loose pull-over, sprawled in an armchair.

### SUBJECT CHANGED

"Take no notice," he said to me with the long-suffering air of any brother who happens to be three years younger than his sister. "It was when Barbara did the catering that we didn't always eat. She was never up in time to order lunch."

Barbara gave an embarrassed laugh and quickly changed the subject. "I look after the household accounts," she announced.

Both their parents, Ben and Bebe, believe that young people should be given responsibility and take a share in the ordinary running of their household.

Ben Lyon, when he joined us at lunch, said, "Barbara hadn't the slightest idea of the value of money until she was given the household expenses to look after."

"I do try to economise with the housekeeping money," Barbara agreed, "but my own allowance goes just as quickly as ever."

### MAKING DO

Barbara and Richard each get their allowance and have to "make do" on it. There is no question of borrowing from their parents; so it is fortunate for Barbara that if she is a spendthrift, Richard is the "miser" of the family and is able to assist her with a loan towards the end of the week.

This is particularly necessary at the moment while Barbara's allowance is suffering a cut because of a "shirt-waist" (American for blouse).

When Bebe was getting better from an illness, Barbara suggested giving her mother a "get-well" present. She had seen just the thing—a blouse she knew Bebe would love, beautiful but rather expensive.

Ben and Richard agreed to share

in the gift. The blouse was bought, and Barbara was right—her mother liked it very much indeed. Bebe put it away to keep for a special occasion.

When the special occasion came Bebe went to look for her new blouse; she found it had been laundered. Bebe and Barbara take the same size in clothes, and Bebe has long been accustomed to having her things "borrowed." But this time Ben and Richard objected strongly.

### BY INSTALMENTS

They maintained that, considering it was a present, Barbara should have waited until Bebe had worn the blouse first. So, as Barbara had taken the blouse, it was decided that she should have it and pay for it, and the cost is now being stopped by instalments from her allowance.

Bebe was not present at lunch. I had been invited by Barbara and Richard, and again it is a part of the family policy of instilling independence that they should be quite free to entertain their own guests. They even have their own private telephone, and pay for it themselves.

Bebe, of course, is nothing like the scatter-brained mother that she portrays on the radio. The idea for the *Life With the Lyons* programme was hers, and it is she who with two script-writers (Bob Block and Bill Harding) often works through the night preparing the programmes. It is Bebe, too, who

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Richard, Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, and Barbara.



## New faces at the London Zoo

Among new arrivals at the Children's Zoo, Regent's Park, are these twin goats seen in the arms of Miss Maureen McVady, the Supervisor.

## THE BREATHLESS GAME OF CHESS

Chess has always been regarded as a leisurely game, but at the first British Speed Chess Championships, at Whitsuntide, it will be played quickly.

Ten seconds only will be allowed for each move, and the ringing of an automatic bell every ten seconds will control the rate of play. There will be two championships; one, for teams of four players and a reserve, will be known as the British Club Speed Championship, and the other will be the individual British Speed Championship.

## BOY AND DOG DEFY CROCODILE

An African boy was looking after his father's flocks beside a Rhodesian river when a crocodile suddenly came out of the water and seized a goat.

Without a thought for his own safety the lad dashed to the spot and seized the goat's leg. A tug-of-war followed, and then the cunning reptile, in a flash, let the goat go and seized the boy.

He yelled for help and his gallant dog immediately came to the rescue, barking at the crocodile and biting it.

The crocodile then released the boy and turned on its attacker, but the dog was too quick for its snapping jaws, and followed his young master, who had picked up the goat and run off with it at top speed.

## PRECIOUS RUBBISH

Roman pottery 1800 years old, an Elizabethan clay tobacco pipe with a bowl the size of an acorn, and a Tudor druggist's jar containing traces of ointment were found in a rubbish pit beneath bombed Haberdashers' Hall, in the City of London.

They have been taken to the Guildhall Museum.

## 69 FEET OF SNAKES

A family of 37 live pythons could be guaranteed to liven up any journey.

Not long ago three Durban men, visiting a farm far away in the bushveld of north-western Transvaal, caught a 15-foot python with a family of 36. They managed to get them all into a sack and, deciding to present them to the Durban Snake Park, put the sack in the back of their small car.

On the way home the men had to sleep in the car, but although the python family in the back created something of a rumpus, they remained in their sack.

### WRIGGLY CARGO

Near Johannesburg the car broke down, but an obliging garage proprietor agreed to look after the wriggly passengers while it was being repaired. The men returned to Durban for another car.

Later, the pythons were put into a box labelled "Live Snakes," and sent by rail to Durban, together with the repaired car. Then they were transferred to the Durban Snake Park.

The Curator, Mr. D. C. Fitzsimons, is accustomed to receiving such consignments, but even he got a shock when he opened the box and saw Mrs. Python and her 36 infants. He has estimated that the entire length of the family, nose to tail, would be 69 feet, the babies being about 18 inches long.

## BIGGEST PENCIL IN THE WORLD

Collecting pencils is a hobby of which we sometimes accuse our neighbours at school, but in America there is a real pencil-collector who makes no secret of it; he has 3500 of them, all different, which have taken him 15 years to acquire.

He claims to have the biggest pencil in the world—11 feet 10½ inches long, and hardly the sort to park behind one's ear!

## THE BEST-DRESSED YOUNG MAN

Who is the best-dressed young man in Britain?

The journal of the tailoring trade, *Tailor and Cutter*, selects Prince Charles for this distinction, stating that "his bow tie and fawn-stalker created much interest last year, and this year his cross-over cardigan has led to a new surge of interest."

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## AID FOR JORDAN AND HER YOUNG KING

By the C.N. Diplomatic Correspondent

ARRANGEMENTS have been made at the Treasury for Britain to give financial help to the Middle East country of Jordan, one of our most trusted friends among the Arab States.

On April the First Jordan's Five-Year Development Plan begins, and Britain has offered to contribute £1,250,000.

The Jordan Government is determined to grapple with its trade problems. But bad harvests, the heavy handicap of thousands of refugees from Palestine, and the high prices of food and commodities she has to import, make extra help essential.

Every country has its own special character, and that of Jordan is personified by her young King Hussein, who came to the throne last year, when he was seventeen.

The new reign has brought Jordan new ideas for solving her difficulties, and loyalty to the King, popular grandson of brilliant King Abdullah, has enabled a start to be made on some of them.

### ABSORBING WESTERN IDEAS

King Hussein, a studious-minded young monarch, has himself been absorbing all the Western ideas which his Ministers believe will best help his country. In recent weeks he has been making a tour of Britain, visiting factories, schools, and hospitals, and studying developments which could be useful to Jordan.

What is he like, this King who is little more than a schoolboy, working abroad for the time being on behalf of his country?

A pupil at Harrow School and a cadet at Sandhurst not long ago, he is said by school-friends to be shy, although he speaks (in English) warmly and fluently to those he knows well. In this reticence to all

but his friends he further personifies his country.

At the same time he has all the enthusiasms of youth. During his tour of this country he has taken the opportunity of driving his new car, although his uncle, Nasir Jamir, has watched over him carefully.

Jordan's interest in the ways of the West extends to the British methods of justice, and this led King Hussein to pay a visit to the Law Courts in London, where he met Lord Chief Justice Goddard, and for a while sat on the bench beside Mr. Justice Lynskey, following a jury case with considerable interest.

### INTERRUPTION

Just when counsel for the plaintiff had reached a compelling part of his argument a low but insistent ringing noise puzzled the court. King Hussein glanced down with a start of surprise at one of his latest possessions—an alarm wrist-watch. A quick dab at his wrist brought silence. He smiled apologetically for the interruption and the case went on.

The young King has also seen prefabricated schools and hospitals being made, and thinks they would be admirable for his country's development.

He put as much as he could into his study-tour, despite an illness which kept him under doctors' orders during much of the latter part of it; and it should prove of great benefit to his country.

## LUNCH WITH THE LYONS

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coaches Barbara and Richard in their acting.

Barbara is enthusiastic about acting. She spent two of the four years she has been in this country at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and is looking forward to the day when she will appear in a straight play.

"I'm scared of making that first appearance," she admitted. "I realise I'll have to be very good or people will just say, 'Well, she only got the part because she is the daughter of Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon.'"

Richard would much sooner be a famous sportsman than a famous actor. His first love was tennis. He showed great promise as a junior player, but radio and then last summer stage work as well, on top of his schooling, made it impossible for him to devote the time necessary to serious tennis.

Instead, on his father's advice he tried golf. For over a year now he has been taking lessons.

Lunch over, I went up to the third floor, which is shared by Barbara and Richard. It is not only in money matters and deportment that these two are opposites. Barbara is as conventional a

hostess as Richard is free and easy. Barbara is as tidy as her brother is untidy.

When the police visited the house after a burglary they took one look at Richard's room and said: "They have certainly ransacked this room all right!"

"You can understand why they thought so," said Barbara, opening Richard's door, "although in fact the burglars had not been near Richard's room!"

"Just you come here," said Richard, not to be outdone. He led me to the doorway of Barbara's room and pointed to the scarred woodwork.

"If you think this is where the burglars forced an entrance you're wrong. These marks show you the number of times we've had to break into Barbara's room because she has lost the key. Dad said it just wasn't worth while getting the woodwork repaired any more."

Honours were even, I thought, as I put on my coat. But Barbara was to have the woman's privilege of the last word.

"Sorry about the lunch," she said, "but then, what can you expect with Richard?"

Personally, though, I thought it had been a very good lunch.



By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

SOME of our M.P.s want to make reading easier. So they have brought in a Simplified Spelling Bill, now before the Commons, calling for an investigation—limited to a small number of schoolchildren—to try an easier way of learning English.

By 12 votes this interesting measure, drawn up by two M.P.s as a Private Member's Bill, passed its first big hurdle a few weeks ago. But the Government are against it, and it is doubtful if it will become law.

The two sponsors are Mr. Isaac Pitman, grandson of a famous shorthand pioneer, and Dr. Mont Follick, who speaks many languages and, among other accomplishments, is the creator of a revolving toothbrush.

Both are concerned at the number of "backward readers." But the Government point out that there is less illiteracy here than in any other country—fewer than one per cent of the school population are very poor readers when they leave.

ONE of the more famous Parliamentary incidents for which Mr. Churchill will be remembered was recalled recently when an M.P. asked him if he would like "a jujube."

On the surface the offer seems extraordinary. But the M.P. was reviving the memory of a day when Mr. Gaitskell, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, was speaking from the Government dispatch-box. Mr. Churchill, sitting opposite, suddenly began searching around in his jacket very urgently.

Mr. Gaitskell thought he was looking for his handkerchief, and offered him his own. But Mr. Churchill said with a bland smile, "I was only looking for a jujube." He had dropped his cough-sweet in the act of putting it in his mouth!

WHICH reminds this column that sweet shortages have been reported from various areas. Of this the Minister of Food, Major Lloyd George, has no knowledge. In fact, sweet derationing seems to be working very well.

MANY people who crowded around Westminster pier the other week to see Marshal Tito probably also saw for the first time the magnificent statue of Boadicea in her chariot.

There she is, this valiant ancient British queen, ready to assail the very Palace of Westminster itself (so redolent of a later queen, Victoria) if the chariot wheels would only turn.

We only mention this because recently Mr. David Grenfell, the "father" of the House of Commons, said that "The name Boadicea means Victoria in Welsh."

DERISION: My hon. friend may laugh if he pleases, but let me tell him that derision is a two-way argument.—An M.P.

## News from Everywhere

### LIGHT WAVE

Traffic policemen on night duty at Lyons, France, are using batons which light up at the push of a button.

Sister Olive McFarlane travelled three miles in a coal mine to under-sea workings to attend a dying miner at Whitehaven, Cumberland.

The largest mined block of coal in the world, weighing some ten tons, will be on show at the Rhodes Centenary exhibition at Bulawayo.

### IN MEMORIAM

A baton commemorating Flight-Lieutenant Quinton, who was posthumously awarded the George Cross for clipping his parachute onto an A.T.C. cadet as their bomber was crashing last year, has been presented to the Royal Air Force.



Tony Stafford, 17-year-old grammar school boy of Hounslow, Middlesex, has been awarded his Private Pilot Licence. Tony is also a qualified glider pilot, and may be the youngest to hold licences for both power-driven and motorless aircraft.

The American university of St. Louis is photographing the entire Vatican library of 600,000 books page by page to make the material available for students.

Wolf Cub Michael Spearey, aged 11, has won the Cornwell Badge for his cheerfulness and endurance during five years of paralysis in a Sevenoaks hospital.

### MILLIONS OF SCOUTS

Lord Rowallan has said that there are nearly six million Boy Scouts in 75 countries. Britain has an all-time record of 500,000.

Alberto Abertondo covered 90 miles before giving up his attempt to swim the 170 miles from Rosario to Buenos Aires.

### LISTENING AND LOOKING

Last year, radio sets worth £15,000,000—a decrease of 45 per cent on the previous year—and television sets amounting to £44,000,000 were sold in Britain.

Sir Osbert Sitwell has given 150 young trees to the vicar of Staveley, near Chesterfield, to replace the existing trees in the rectory garden, which are being killed by the fumes from a nearby chemical factory.

Mrs. Eisenhower uses a desk which was presented to the White House by Queen Victoria. It was made from the timber of the Resolute, one of the British ships which went in search of Sir John Franklin and his party.

### SHORT HOP

An air service from Southampton to the Isle of Wight 12 miles away will start next month.

The Royal Maundy Money will be given by the Queen at St. Paul's Cathedral on April 2. Westminster Abbey, where the ceremony usually takes place, is closed for Coronation preparations.

An African boy of 15 working on a farm in Northern Rhodesia walks nine miles after work every week to attend night school, and then walks nine miles back in the dark.

### SERVANTS OF THE WORLD

Twenty-three persons have lost their lives while serving with United Nations missions. Eight came from the United States, four from France, three from Britain, and one each from Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Canada, India, Australia, Denmark, and the Philippines.

Roughly one-fortieth of the steel in a modern car is used to fasten the rest together—in the form of nuts and bolts, screws and rivets.

Every week 1000 British Servicemen and their families from the Suez Canal Zone are being flown to Cyprus for a holiday.

The new examination replacing the School and Higher School Certificates is open to all candidates, whether at school or not.

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The Children's Newspaper, April 4, 1953

## SIGNED BY BUTTON GWINNETT

Button Gwinnett, who is remembered only because his signature is on the American Declaration of Independence, also wrote his name in the register of St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton. That was in 1757, when he married Anne Bourne, daughter of the Wolverhampton tea merchant to whom he had been apprenticed for many years.

Now permission to sell that page of the marriage register for £10,000 has been asked of the Lichfield Diocesan Consistory Court. It is proposed to invest the money and use the interest for church purposes.

In his lifetime Button Gwinnett was a person of little importance, and no one troubled to keep his

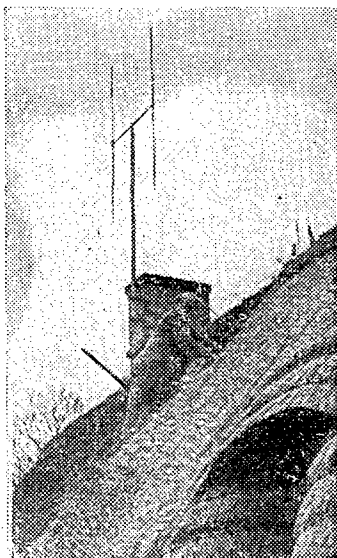
letters. It is because his signature is so rare that it is so valuable.

The signatures of all who signed the Declaration of Independence are highly prized in America, and other signatures of Button Gwinnett have been sold for large sums; one discovered on an old document was sold for £10,200.

Gwinnett, who was born at Down Hatherley in Gloucestershire in 1734, was 26 when he emigrated to America with his wife and three daughters. Settling in Savannah, Georgia, he became a shopkeeper and a magistrate.

Eventually he was elected one of the three delegates from Georgia to the historic Congress that in 1776 drew up the Declaration of Independence.

## Old England—1953



A thatcher working on the roof of a cottage at Woodmanocote, Gloucestershire, with a T.V. aerial high above him.

## UNWELCOME GREY SQUIRREL

As an animal-loving nation we have been in the unfortunate position of having to choose between harbouring grey squirrels or losing numbers of trees that are not only valuable to us, but are a traditional and beautiful feature of the landscape.

By stripping the bark, the grey squirrel kills many trees—sycamore, beech, oak, birch, ash, and larch. If it continues to multiply we may find it impossible to grow these trees.

So the Forestry Commission has declared war on the grey invaders, introduced from America some 50 odd years ago.

## VOICE OF IRIRANGI

The name of New Zealand's powerful Naval wireless station, Irirangi, is taken from a Maori legend.

Irirangi was a princess, and her name meant "Floating through the air." Destined to marry a man of royal blood, she planned to elope with a commoner; but her scheme became known, her lover was killed, and Irirangi vowed to die and leave her voice as symbol.

Today the voice of Irirangi spans the world in the vast chain of Commonwealth communications.

## HERALDRY FOR THE SPEAKER'S COACH

A coat of arms designed for the Right Hon. W. S. Morrison, M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons, is to be emblazoned on his Coronation coach.

This coach, built over 250 years ago, is one of the oldest vehicles in working order in the world. It is thought to have been used by Queen Anne at her Coronation in 1702.

The arms, on a shield, show two gannets in flight, the Speaker's mace, and a crest of a Viking ship. The Gaelic motto means, The Lord is My Shepherd.

Mrs. Morrison told a C.N. correspondent that the Viking ship refers to the Speaker's Norse forbears, and the gannet—a seabird that frequents remote islands in Britain—to the island origin of his family in the north of Scotland.

## OTHER CLUBS, PLEASE COPY

Members of a youth club at Camberley, Surrey, have organised a Help The Sick service.

They will do housework and run errands for bedridden people, and will also look after children while parents visit sick relatives in hospital.

## BIRD WATCHERS TO SIT FOR AN EXAM

In many parks and open spaces in Greater London 15 men and women have begun a three-month course of bird study.

In addition to various London parks and bomb-sites, they will visit the Colne Valley, Staines Reservoir, a garden sanctuary at Ickenham, and Ruislip Marsh, in Middlesex.

Every student has selected a bird or group of birds to watch, and most of them spent almost every weekend during the winter recording their observations of rooks and crows, moorhens and coots, sparrows, black-headed gulls, and other birds familiar in the region of London.

At the end of their course they will sit for an examination, but the notes they have already contributed have been of real value to ornithologists concerned with the conservation of wild-bird life in the London area.

## ROAD SAFETY DRESS

A novel prize for a road safety essay competition was given recently at the Christopher Marlowe Girls' School at Deptford. It was a bright yellow dress length bearing a gaily-coloured design with street scenes, zebra crossings, children, policemen, and road safety slogans.

The prize was presented by Miss Jill Allgood, creator of the TV puppet Timothy Telescope, who was afterwards introduced to the girls.

## A MEAL FIT FOR A QUEEN

The Hotels and Catering Institute of Great Britain is organising a competition to prepare a meal "fit for a Queen." A prize of £10 and a week's holiday on the Continent is offered.

It must be a five-course meal, with suitable wines, with an eye to Commonwealth products and tastes as well.



## School builds its own bungalow

Pupils of the John Hampden School, New Barnet, Herts., have built a five-roomed bungalow, which is to be used for Domestic Science. Girls are seen cleaning the windows, while boys are at work on the garden.

## EASTER IN MEXICO



This photograph, taken by a C.N. reader in a Mexican village, shows the old Holy Saturday custom of parading an effigy of Judas made of brightly-coloured paper on a bamboo framework, and filled with fire-crackers. At 11 o'clock in the morning it is burned.

In these days their Judas, like our own Guy Fawkes, often represents an unpopular character, such as a local politician.

Similar figures may be seen in the present exhibition of Mexican Art at the Tate Gallery, which is described on page 7.

## WHY NOT HAVE A GOOD CRY?

You have probably heard of the woman who, when asked what she had thought of a certain film, answered: "Oh, wonderful! I haven't enjoyed myself so much for ages; I cried all the time."

But are there not things that move you, quite unexpectedly, to tears? A military band, the tale of some animal's fidelity, or a tragic novel? And do you not cry more readily within the privacy of a darkened cinema?

"Have a good cry!" is often very sound advice; tears are Nature's balm for taut nerves.

An unusual article on this subject is one of many features of absorbing interest in the April issue of Britain's most interesting magazine, *WORLD DIGEST*. It is now on sale, price 1s. 3d.

## MUSICAL ROAD

Special strips of road surface about 30 inches wide are being laid along some of the "fast" highways in the United States.

These safety strips are near the kerb, and if the nearside wheels of a car travelling at speed run onto these strips they emit a singing note, warning the driver that he is getting too near the kerb.

The strips also reflect headlights more brightly, giving an additional safeguard at night.

## RETURN OF THE NATIVE

Asked where he was born, Ronald Stokes told the Army recruiting officer at Chester: "In this very room, sir."

Ronald's father, formerly in the Army, had once lived there.

## PLASTIC BIKE

The world's first all-plastic bicycle has been produced by a Dutch inventor. It weighs a little over 13 lbs., and is said to be as strong as a steel one of twice the weight.

## PIPED COAL

The possibilities of a Birmingham-to-London coal pipeline were discussed at a conference organised by the National Coal Board.

The Ministry of Fuel is interested in the suggestion that it might be possible to move a million tons of coal a year to London along such a pipeline.

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# AMATEURS RUN THE VILLAGE RAILWAY

By Eric Gillett, the CN Film Critic

EALING STUDIOS have made more interesting films in recent years than any other British organisation has done. Sir Michael Balcon and his talented colleagues are always experimenting, and the pictures they make are usually unconventional and often very funny.

Every good feature film must have a lively or original idea behind it. Mr. T. E. B. Clarke, the best British script writer, specialises in this kind of thing.

Last year, while on holiday in Wales, he found himself on a tiny station of the Tal-y-llyn Railway, where an advertisement was displayed: *Amateur Platelayers Wanted*. It set his mind working, and *The Titfield Thunderbolt* is the result—in Technicolor.

The village of Titfield is connected with Mallingford by a narrow-gauge line which is about to be closed. The local residents resolve to keep it open, and with

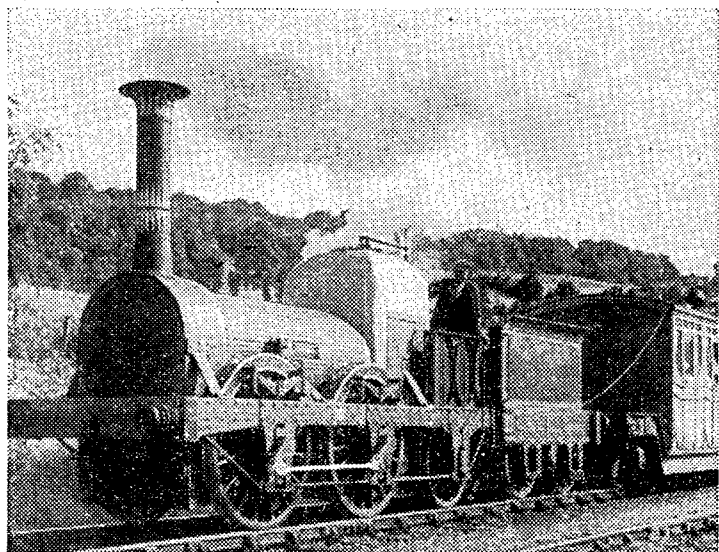
activities of the lesser-known branch of the force.

One particularly effective sequence shows W.P.C. Susan (Anne Crawford) rescuing a small child from a ledge high above the street.

But it is in its humour rather than its thrills that *Street Corner* is most effective. The duties of the police bring them into contact with all kinds of strange people, and Miss Muriel Box, the director, has arranged for a non-stop supply of these eccentrics all through the picture.

The climax is reached with the aid of a magnificent white police dog which gets its man in most convincing style and holds him until its master arrives.

Street Corner may be rather scrappy, but it achieves its aim and hardly ever seems to preach. It is acted by an unusually large and able cast.



The Thunderbolt proudly puffs its way between Titfield and Mallingford

the help of the eccentric Mr. Valentine (Stanley Holloway) they succeed in doing so.

They have their difficulties. The volunteer staff is not altogether reliable, though the vicar (George Relph), who drives the train, is a tower of strength. In the crisis he is able to call on a bishop (Godfrey Tearle) to stoke the engine.

Real trouble begins when a Government inspector pays a visit. The train has just been destroyed.

What is to be done? The answer cannot in fairness be given here, but it includes the use of a remarkable engine which is 114 years old.

The Titfield Thunderbolt is not the funniest of the Ealing comedies, but it has its superb moments and I shall not soon forget the parson and the bishop on the footplate as they drive their ancient locomotive to victory.

STREET CORNER attempts to do for the women police what *The Blue Lamp* achieved for their male colleagues.

It is by no means as successful, but it does provide good entertainment. At the same time it gives a fair account of the many

ROUGH SHOOT is a British thriller in the John Buchan manner. It just fails because its villains are stagey and improbable people.

This is not due to any fault of the clever actors, headed by Marius Goring.

As an American colonel who thinks he has shot a poacher by accident, the American star, Joel McCrea, is not given many chances. Most of them go to Herbert Lom as a mysterious Polish count who is a member of the British Secret Service. He thoroughly enjoys himself, and so does the audience when he is on the screen.

## AUSTRALIA'S BELT OF URANIUM

Soon after Easter a group of geologists and mining experts will arrive in Australia's Northern Territory to survey what is believed to be the biggest uranium belt in the world.

Important discoveries of uranium have been found there during the past two or three years, and another big find was made in February.

The uranium belt extends for 200 miles from Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory.



By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and Television Correspondent

## I want to be . . .

HAVE you ever thought of becoming an X-ray operator in a hospital or clinic? You can hear all about the work and its prospects in *Children's Hour* on April 9, when the next in the series, "I Want to Be . . ." will be a radio-grapher.

Other occupations to be dealt with soon will be publishing, the Wrens, and dentistry.

Since they started over a year ago, these programmes have helped many boys and girls in the choice of a career. Experts talk in the studio, but the microphone also wanders abroad into offices, factories, and laboratories where the jobs are being done.

## 3 D for TV

STEREOSCOPIC or three-dimensional TV may come sooner than was expected.

The BBC is greatly interested in a system submitted to them by a British inventor, Mr. Granville Bradshaw, in which a scrambling device before the TV camera lens transmits scenes in duplicate. A similar attachment on the receiver produces pictures in depth.

The device will soon be under test at the BBC research station at Kingswood Warren, Surrey.

"Hundreds of inventions are sent in to us every year," a BBC official told me, "but the majority are not even worth trying out! Mr. Bradshaw's is an exception."

## Living silhouettes

CHILDREN'S TV will soon be showing six films exemplifying a unique art. They are the work of Lotti Reiniger, who uses paper cut-outs to obtain animations in silhouette.

The first film, *Snow White and Rose Red*, will be seen on April 27. Thereafter, at fortnightly intervals, we shall see *Aladdin*, *Prince Achmed*, *Hans in Luck*, *Cinderella*, and *Little Chimney Sweep*.

Making the films entails infinite patience and care. Lotti Reiniger lays her cut-outs on a frosted glass screen and photographs them from above in a series of shots running into many thousands.

After each shot the little figures are moved on slightly to the next position. When projected at 24 pictures a second, the figures spring to life.

## Gadgets

AN electronic accordion operated by radio valves is an idea submitted for next month's TV *Inventors' Club*.

Other gadgets include a suitcase convertible into a child's cot, an illuminated fountain pen, an aquarium aerator, and a mist-wiper for the rear windows of cars.

Leslie Hardern, who started the Club six years ago, tells me that hundreds of ideas first shown in this TV feature have been taken up by manufacturers and successfully marketed.

# Books for the Holiday

## MADE BY HAND

*The Countryman's Workshop*, by James Arnold (Phoenix House, 10s. 6d.)

IT is pleasant to think that there are still a number of essential things made by hand—saddlery, besoms, rakes, and many others. In this book, lavishly illustrated by his own hand, the author tells an inspiring story of the work of the basket-maker, the trug-maker, the thatcher, the Windsor chair-maker, and similar skillful folk.

## YOUTH ON THE LAND

*Young Farmers at Gaythorne*, by Nancy Martin (Macmillan, 6s. 6d.)

ALL boys and girls, but particularly those who belong to young farmers' clubs, will be highly entertained by this story of the trials and triumphs of Gaythorne School in the Inter-Club Quiz, Public-Speaking Contest, Harvest Camp, County Rally, and fight for the Challenge Cup.

## YOUTH CLUB TRIALS

*The Young Brevingtons*, by Irene Byers (Max Parrish, 8s. 6d.)

A TRUE-TO-LIFE story about some young people from the country who try to start a youth club in a crowded slum area. The local vicar is on their side, but formidable obstacles involve them in stirring adventures.

## EVOLUTION FABLES

*Wishing Well*, by Gerald Heard (Faber and Faber, 21s.)

TO introduce the complicated history of evolution as a series of amusing fables is the successful achievement of Gerald Heard in this fascinating and delightfully-illustrated and thought-provoking book. He supposes that the creatures were given wish-power to develop themselves into something different by their own efforts. Almost all misspent their wishes—all save one little animal which wanted to become Man.



One of the dozens of cheerful illustrations in *Simple Heraldry*, by Iain Moncreiffe and Don Pottinger (Nelson, 10s. 6d.)

## SOUL OF AN ORPHAN

*Run Away Home*, by Elinor Lyon (Hodder and Stoughton, 9s. 6d.)

CATHIE ran away from an orphanage not because of any unkind treatment, but because "Nobody knows where I came from, so I'm trying to find out." She explains this to the harum-scarum Scottish children who smuggle her out to a secret hut on the coast, and eventually solve the mystery. A fine, sympathetic yarn!

## POCKETFUL OF MUSIC

*The Observer's Book of Music*, by Freda Dinn, with illustrations by Paul Sharp (Frederick Warne, 5s.)

A LITTLE pocket-book for everybody, giving descriptions of instruments, musical terms, and notes on the great composers—all knowledge calculated to enrich our enjoyment of the great art.

## FUN WHILE GROWING

*The Young Market Gardeners*, by Eithelind Fearon (Lutterworth Press, 10s. 6d.)

IT is a yarn about some boys and girls who decide to take up market gardening seriously after spending a camping holiday picking potatoes at eightpence a bag.

They form their own co-operative group, rent a field near their town, and set to work; and the description of their mistakes and triumphs makes this not only a laughter book, but a complete guide to market gardening.

## EXCITING HISTORY

*Tales of London*, by Kathleen Fidler (Lutterworth Press, 7s. 6d.)

IN the second of her Heritage Series Miss Fidler spins exciting yarns from important episodes in London history, such as proud Boadicea's last battle, the founding of St. Bart's, the Plague, and the Great Fire. Truth is often more exciting than fiction!

## LAKELAND ADVENTURE

*Peril in Lakeland*, by Winifred Finlay (Harrap, 7s. 6d.)

GILLIAN and Sally little guessed what adventures were to befall them on their first walking holiday in the Lake District, accompanied by their friends Peter and Bryan, and with a young schoolmaster as guide.

In addition to sustained excitement throughout, this book contains useful information about rambling, climbing, and youth-hostelling in the Lakes.

## FOR JANEITES

*Presenting Miss Jane Austen*, by May Lamberton Becker (Harrap, 12s. 6d.)

IN this age of noise and bustle more and more readers are finding delight in the quiet, leisurely world reflected in the novels of Jane Austen. They will find equal delight in Mrs. Becker's book, a "portrait" of the novelist which shows her in her home and with her family and friends, and also traces the development of her gentle talents. To read it is to have a greater understanding of her work.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

TEACH YOURSELF CYCLING, by R. C. Shaw, and TEACH YOURSELF SWIMMING, by Frank Waterman (English Universities Press, 6s. each)

ARE FINDINGS KEEPINGS?—New Stories from the Law for Young People, by Claud Mullins (Muller, 10s. 6d.)

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS IN PICTURES (Odhams, 11s. 6d.)

FAMOUS BRITISH ENGINEERS, by Leslie Halward (Phoenix House, 12s. 6d.)

BRITISH WILD ANIMALS, by H. Mortimer Batten (Odhams, 10s. 6d.)

THE YOUNG TRAVELLER IN SWEDEN, by George L. Proctor (Phoenix House, 8s. 6d.)



The Children's Newspaper, April 4, 1953

## ROUND THE TOWNS— Alan Ivimey pays a visit to

# SPALDING AND ITS BULB FIELDS

SPALDING can be clearly seen long before the traveller reaches it, not because there is anything particularly tall about it, save the spire of St. Mary and St. Nicolas, but because the country for miles all round looks as vast and flat as a calm sea.

Many of the roads leading to the town run along the tops of big dykes or embankments built to contain the many watercourses which drain the land, and the Fen folk, who all ride bicycles, get used very early in life to making their way against a headwind.

Spalding lies in that southern portion of Lincolnshire known from old times as The Parts of Holland. This name has nothing to do with Dutch settlers, but simply means the "hollow" or low-lying land, for much of it lies little above sea-level, if at all. The grey and seal-haunted waters of The Wash are only ten miles away.

COMING along the London road from Market Deeping, I drove beside the River Welland, which at low tide flows at the bottom of a huge trench. But sometimes when the tide is very high the water is above the level of the road, and then one is glad of the immensely strong embankments. These were being strengthened by pile-drivers as I passed and found my way towards the High Bridge.

On the left-hand side were terraces of attractive Georgian houses. They look across the great ditch of the Welland to a parallel street bordered by trees and called Church Gate, for the old parish church whose spire beckoned me from miles away is on that far side of the water from the town.

The obvious likeness to Dutch scenery here has often been pointed out; yet Spalding, at this first approach, struck me as a most English-looking town.

At the High Bridge I looked across and saw a jolly, white thatched house of just those long and ample proportions which make one think of lazy summer afternoon. Part inn and part café, it looked freshly painted and cared for and a model of how this sort of thing should be preserved as a welcome to a town.

THE Romans built the first bridge here, and the first of the earth walls to keep the sea out of the Fens; but they seem to have made no settlement at Spalding, which for centuries afterwards lay remote and inaccessible among acres of reeds and marshes.

The beginnings of the town grew up round the Priory, founded soon after the Conquest, of which there are still small remains. I went along Bridge Street, and just at the entry to the Market Place found a narrow passage called Hole-in-the-



Workers in one of the many tulip fields round Spalding bringing in baskets of blooms

Wall. Some way down it a small stone tower projects from the houses.

The other fragment is reached by going on across the Market Place to the Sheep Market, where there is a vault under the shops. It is called The Prior's Oven for some strange reason, seeing that the Prior did not make pies but kept prisoners there, for it was the little town's gaol.

Of Spalding's castle only a little of the moat now remains, behind Pinchbeck Street.

SPALDING is not a place of antiquities so much as a centre where farmers come to market—though in Broad Street there is still the headquarters of the famous Spalding Gentlemen's Society, founded in 1710 to study things of historic interest in the neighbourhood. Sir Isaac Newton was an original member.

The founder lived at Ayscoughfee Hall, across the river, next to the parish church. This splendid old house now belongs to the Urban District Council, and its gardens, lined by some wonderful yew hedges, are laid out as tennis courts and bowling greens; they also contain an aviary.

I arrived at the end of market day, a Tuesday, when the place was full of stalls and bulb-growers—representing the district's chief occupations—with farmers, cattle dealers, and merchants breaking up to go home.

ALL around the town are bulb farms, for the soil is a rich loam formed long ago from peat and the deposit of fertile mud from the river. Bulbs, sugar beet, potatoes, or peas are grown in a five-year rotation. That is to say, any one particular field will be growing bulbs one year out of five. And the bulb fields in blossom are a sight to be seen.

Once, when I was flying from Yorkshire to Norfolk, our turning-point was Spalding, and there was no mistaking where we were. The ground below was striped in brilliant reds and yellows where

millions of tulips made a beautiful carpet of the land.

Sometimes 100,000 people have come to Spalding for Tulip Sunday, in May, and we find Spalding bulbs all over the country.

I paid a visit to one of the bulb farms at the height of the daffodil season. The fields were bordered by a great dyke, and girls and women were cutting the flowers.

These were then brought in baskets to a big shed, tied up in dozen bundles on special wooden racks, and then packed in boxes to go away by lorry to Covent Garden or to the flower Markets of Birmingham and Manchester.

DAFFODILS are planted out in the fields in late August or September. Those required for forcing to catch the early market

outside in October and start flowering in the following April.

In May there will be the astonishing sight of thousands of lovely tulip flowers being cut off and thrown into a pit to rot. This allows the bulbs to increase in size.

In July they are lifted, cleaned, and graded—and each one falls apart. The centre portion will be this year's bulb for selling, the next portion, outside it, for next year, the outer portion for the year after.

In the fields, bulbs are planted three inches apart, in rows nine inches from each other. But when moved to the heated glasshouses for forcing the bulbs almost touch.

The glasshouses I saw were 100 feet long by 30 feet wide, and would each hold 60,000 tulips or 50,000 daffodils.



Tulip blooms which have been picked to allow the bulbs to develop

(about three weeks later than the Scilly Islands blooms) are planted outside in boxes.

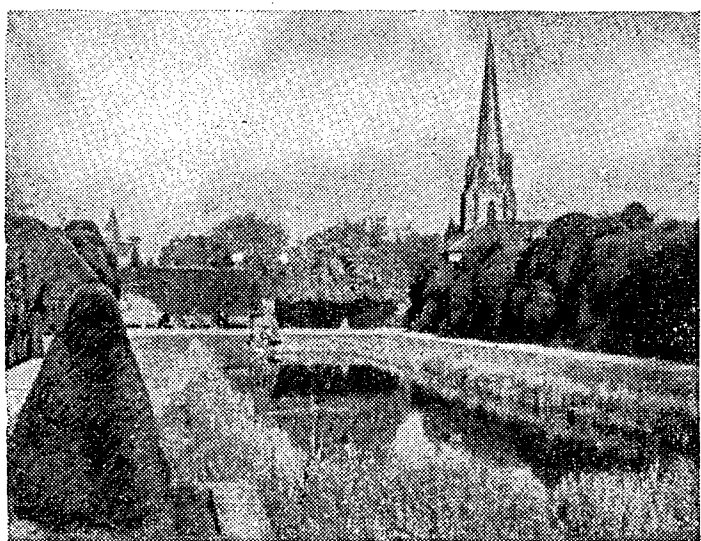
The boxes are brought into the glasshouses in December, by which time the bulbs have rooted and thrown out a shoot.

From January to March there is a continuous production of forced blooms, while those grown wholly outside come on for picking during March and April.

While daffodils are grown for flowers, the tulips here were being grown for bulbs. They are planted

JUST before I drove away, Mr.

D. W. Maxey, who had kindly shown me round, placed a great bunch of "King Alfreds" in my arms. And I thought then that to the steady supply of scented sunshine for tens of thousands of homes every Spring, goes all the richness of the Spalding soil, tended so carefully for generations; and also the eternal vigilance of those who control 800 miles of slow-rolling waterways through the Fens, and the patience and skill of the growers.



The gardens of Ayscoughfee Hall, close to the parish church



The inn and café at the foot of the High Bridge



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · E.C.4

APRIL 4 ..... 1953

## MESSAGE FOR EASTER

ONCE again comes Easter with its message of hope and good cheer for the world. Nearly 2000 years have passed since the first Easter brought a transformation in the life of mankind, but its message grows not old; its significance for us all is ageless, eternal.

Easter reaffirms belief in a miracle—that Christ rose from the dead, and by doing so demonstrated that death is not the end, but the beginning of a newer and better life.

THAT message has always thrilled Christians. Down the centuries it has helped millions of people to live with courage and fortitude, and it still does.

It was said of Oliver Cromwell that "hope shone in him like a beacon." Easter makes that hope the property of all, gives the forward-looking faith which allows us all to face the future unafraid.

*For we have heard a greater word,  
And seen a greater glory;  
Sing, brothers, sing this fair morning,  
And tell the world the story!  
We heard a voice that bade rejoice,  
Where late our Lord was lying,  
No more, it saith, shall there be death,  
Sorrow, nor pain, nor crying:  
And men from birds may borrow  
Songs for a glad tomorrow!*  
C. A. Alington



## Under the Editor's Table

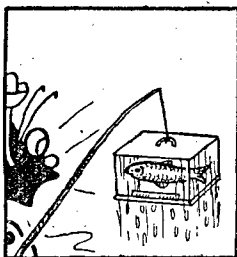
PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO  
KNOW

If river fish are  
sold at current  
prices

Thirty per cent of school-leavers are backward. Yet so many people think them forward.

Some people find it easy to get along with their fellows. Especially bus drivers.

BILLY BEETLE



## ATOMIC POWER FOR MAN'S BENEFIT

ENOUGH electricity to provide light and heat for about 50 average five-roomed houses has been successfully produced by atomic energy at the United States atomic plant at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Atomic experts emphasise that many problems have yet to be solved before the use of atomic electricity becomes general, but it is good to know that such progress is being made.

Untold benefits for mankind will come if atomic power is developed on these lines.

## The bargain

IT happened during a sale at one of Shrewsbury's biggest stores.

At the head of the long queue was a crippled lady, but the particular bargain she sought was on the second floor and it would probably be snapped up by some nimbler shopper. She confided her fears to the next lady in the queue, who then had a word with all the others.

The bargain-seekers listened sympathetically, and when the doors opened not one of them moved upstairs until the crippled lady had reached the counter she required.

All went home with an extra bargain in their hearts.

## Well done, Corby!

BROWNIES of the 5th Corby (Northants) Brownie Pack decided that their "extra good turn" for Coronation Year would also express gratitude for the privilege of meeting in a local school.

They have saved up enough Victorian pennies and half-pennies to buy two flowering cherry trees, and these have now been planted in the garden of the school, facing one of the town's busiest roads.

A certain lady gives useful tips for making gloves. Finger tips, of course.

Sweets you enjoy improve your temper. Make you sweet-tempered.

Most foreigners jump at the chance to learn English. And learn it by leaps and bounds.

It is necessary if we are to live well that we work well, declares Mr. Arthur Deakin. Then we shall feel well.

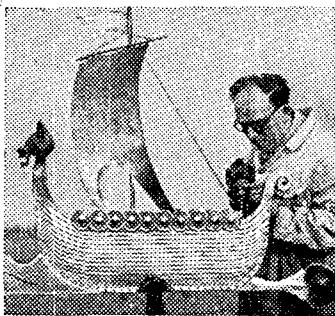
# The Editor's Table

## Strange street scene

As he walked home along a suburban street in the small hours of the morning an Edinburgh man wondered if he was dreaming, for he saw in the light of a passing bus a kangaroo hopping along the street just in front of him.

It proved to be a fugitive from the nearby zoo—perhaps intending to make its way south to greet the Australian cricketers.

## Viking ship



This fine weathervane representing a Viking ship has been made by Mr. C. Hodson, of Broadstairs, Kent. He is presenting it to the town to commemorate the Viking landing there more than 1000 years ago, and also the 1949 "invasion."

## A little learning

MUCH good work was sent by schools to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for their Bird and Tree Challenge Shield Competition. The shield and second prize was shared between Epsom County Secondary Boys School and Kettering Central School.

A boy from another school, after remarking in his essay that the magpie's nest is "domb shaped," was modest enough to add "I have been proved rong about this bird."

The society's report fails to mention the essay of another boy who announced that he had seen some Russian starlings. Asked how he knew they were Russian birds, he replied: "Well, they had red legs."

## Thirty Years Ago

BRITISH constructors have succeeded in building aeroplanes of steel, complete with steel coverings as thin as paper for the wings, that are actually 30 per cent lighter than similar machines built of wood.

A HUGE sports ground, or stadium, to which athletes from all nations will come, is receiving its finishing touches at Wembley, and will soon be ready to receive 125,000 spectators, if necessary, for the final game for the Football Association Cup.

From the Children's Newspaper, April 7, 1923

## TEACH ME

Teach me to feel another's woe,  
To hide the fault I see;  
That mercy I to others show  
That mercy show to me.

Alexander Pope

## WATCHING WHILE THEY WASH

MANY people stay too long in the bath—some because they are revelling in their singing, others because they are playing with floating toy ducks.

But in Tokyo the explanation of tub-lingering is television.

Since TV sets were installed in public baths in Japan's capital the average time taken for a bath has risen from 20 minutes to 45 minutes; bathers recline in the warm water viewing the programmes while lengthening queues fume outside.

The Tokyo authorities are worried about it, as indeed they may well be, though they have only themselves to blame. TV in the bathroom should not be encouraged, and we shudder at the thought of the spread of the practice.

## Easter Day

As the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. But a great earthquake took place; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and went and rolled away the boulder and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. For fear of him the sentries shook and became like dead men; but the angel addressed the women, saying, "Have no fear; I know you are looking for the crucified Jesus. He is not here, he has risen, as he told you he would. See, here is the place where the Lord lay."

"Now make haste, go to his disciples, and tell them he has risen from the dead and that he precedes you to Galilee; you shall see him there. That is my message for you."

From the New Testament in the Moffatt Translation (Hodder & Stoughton)

## JUST AN IDEA

As Emerson wrote: I am a great believer in luck. The harder I work, the more of it I seem to have.

The Children's Newspaper, April 4, 1953

## THINGS SAID

To be here as the representative of my country, on the threshold of this new Elizabethan age, is both a challenge and a stimulus to me to do my utmost in the great task of perpetuating and enriching the friendship between our two countries.

Mr. Winthrop W. Aldrich,  
the American Ambassador

How many must there be in Britain... who thirst in later life to learn about the humanities, the history of their country, the philosophies of the human race, and the arts and letters which sustain and are borne forward by the ever-conquering English language?

Mr. Winston Churchill, in a letter

FOR the next 30 or 40 years livestock will be the most important means of international exchange.

Mr. Robert Crouch, M.P.

THERE are educated dogs and uneducated ones, there are stupid dogs and clever ones, dogs which are not citizens and dogs which are delinquents.

Mr. Hector Hughes, M.P.

WE have records at school of the behaviour of some of the parents and grandparents of present-day scholars. One truant was so bad that his parents brought him to school with a big log chained to his leg to prevent his running back home.

Headmaster of Sutton East County Secondary School

## IN THE COUNTRY

APRIL is always a welcome month, despite its uncertain moods. Showers work their magic, and beneath their spell the earth once more grows green and bounteous.

Following the showers comes warm sun; and then is heard the hum of bees returning to their task of winning nectar from a myriad orchard blossoms.

For a while, drops of crystal water glitter and scintillate on each bush and tree and blade of grass, stimulating precious growth, and investing orchard, wood, and field alike with richness and beauty and the fullness of life.



## OUR HOMELAND

By the village pond at Aldbury, Hertfordshire





Chief Scout and Queen's Scouts

At Lambeth Palace, London, four Scouts of the 1st Aldborough Hatch Troop, Ilford, Essex, were awarded their Certificates as Queen's Scouts. The new Queen's Scouts are here seen talking to the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan.

## STOWAWAYS AND SOUVENIRS AT THE LONDON ZOO

By Craven Hill, CN Correspondent at Regent's Park

THIS seems to be the season for the arrival of "stowaways" at the Zoo; during the past week or two no fewer than three have come in, all sent from fruiterers' shops in and around London.

One of these stowaways was in fact quite a formidable customer—a large and hairy South American bird-eating spider with wicked-looking poison fangs and a leg span that could quite easily cover a saucer.

This dangerous creature was found among newly-imported bananas at a Kentish Town greengrocer's, having passed undetected through Covent Garden fruit market. Now it is at the Zoo, feeding well on locusts and cockroaches.

ANOTHER stowaway found among some bananas was a big snail which at the time of writing has not been identified.

"It is probably hibernating," Mr. L. C. Bushby, curator of insects, told me. "But we are putting it in a warm glass case where, no doubt, it will soon wake up and feed on the vegetation we shall have ready for it."

STOWAWAY No. 3, also found among bananas, was a long-horned grasshopper.

"It is a species we have not had for some time," Mr. Bushby says. "It gets its name from the long antennae on its head. When feeding, or on the move, the grasshopper pushes its antennae outwards, when they look very much like long horns. But when the creature is at rest these 'feelers' are folded backwards along the back and sometimes seem to disappear altogether."

MR. JOHN YEALLAND, curator of birds, has a stowaway of another kind—a partridge egg brought in by the Zoo's camel keepers, who found it among a bundle of clover hay which they were just about to feed to the camels.

"How this egg came to be among the hay we can only surmise," Mr. Yealland said. "But the probability is that it was laid a year or two ago in the long grass of a country meadow. Partridges sometimes nest in a meadow laid up for hay—probably because in such

Continued at foot of next column

## That sinking feeling

Britain is like a ship with a leak in its port forehold, Dr. L. Hawkes, Professor of Geology at Bedford College, told the Royal Institute recently. The country seems to be dipping into the sea at her south-east corner, while the north-west corner rises.

This comes about through the gradual, unceasing shift in the Earth's crust, said Dr. Hawkes. London is sinking a foot each century, while Dutch geologists say there is no hope for Holland in centuries to come unless another Ice Age lowers the level of the sea.

### UPS AND DOWNS

This, of course, is a slow process compared with some of the volcanic islands of the Pacific, which tend to appear and disappear again sometimes within the space of a few months.

Last year the crew of the Glasgow freighter Queen Ann, while near the Philippines, saw a small island rapidly rising above the surface of the sea. The central part of the island had attained a height of nearly 1000 feet before the vessel was out of sight.

Continued from previous column

open situations they feel a greater sense of security from four-footed vermin.

"How it escaped damage is a miracle, when you remember that the hay containing it was not only subsequently cut, but stacked in some stockyard, eventually cut into bundles, and sent a long distance by road. Anyway, it makes an interesting souvenir for my mantelpiece!"

TALKING of souvenirs, the Zoo is preparing some novel ones for young Coronation visitors.

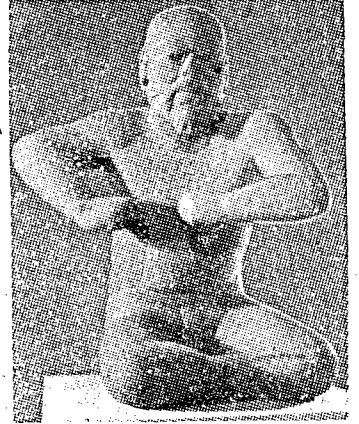
They are gold-coloured medallions. On one side is the Queen's head and on the other is the design of a kneeling elephant, with the year 1953 inscribed on its saddle.

"The medallions, which are about the size of a half-crown, are being made for us by the Royal Mint, and so far we have about 2000 of them," a Zoo official told me. "They will be on sale very cheaply at the Zoo shop throughout the coming season, and we anticipate a big demand for them."

## MEXICO at MILLBANK



Earthenware funerary urn



The Wrestler



A little warrior



The Scribe of Cuicuilan

A wonderful exhibition at the Tate Gallery in London provides a unique opportunity for studying the culture of Mexico, from the days before Columbus to the present time.

Much of it is barbaric art. More than one Goddess of Death presides over the relics of those ancient peoples, such as the Aztecs and Mayas, who combined extraordinary artistic ability with cruel religious rites.

So there are some aspects of this exhibition which repel; but all visitors will delight in the quaint little terracotta figures and amusing masks, the shapely pottery and jolly toys. These playthings are included in

a most colourful gallery of folk art ranging from a silver-ornamented saddle to a bamboo-and-paper Judas intended to be burned amid fireworks on Holy Saturday, as shown in a picture on page 3.

One outstanding feature of the exhibition is the dramatic presentation of the objects, with spotlights and concealed lighting.

As for the modern paintings, their chief interest will be to the student of art, for some of them suggest that the ancient Mexican preoccupation with violence and death persisted right through the days of Spanish rule and even cast its spell on present-day artists.



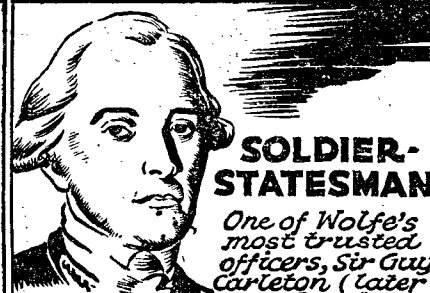
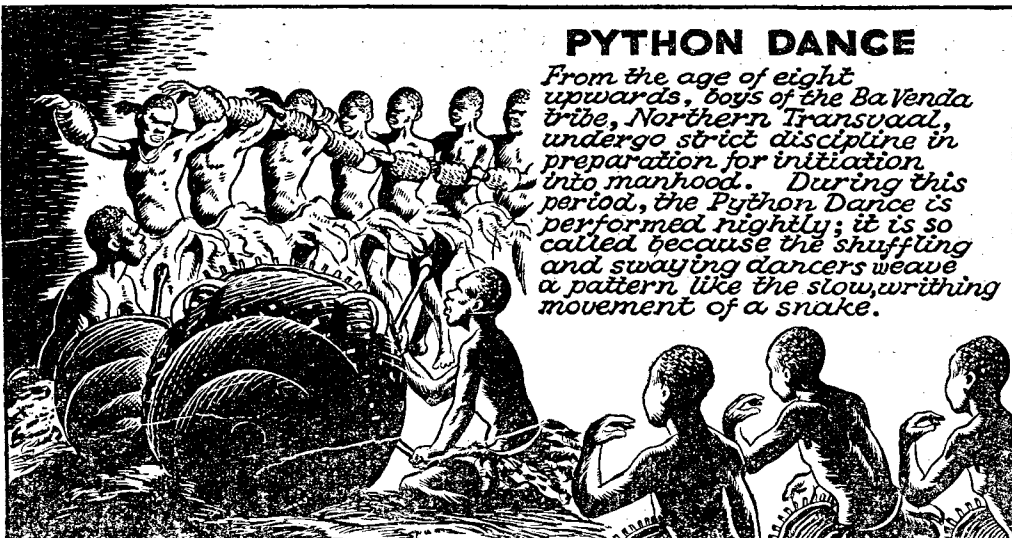
A wooden bust of Saint Diego de Alcalá

## Empire Mosaic—30

by Ridgway

### PYTHON DANCE

From the age of eight upwards, boys of the Ba Venda tribe, Northern Transvaal, undergo strict discipline in preparation for initiation into manhood. During this period, the Python Dance is performed nightly; it is so called because the shuffling and swaying dancers weave a pattern like the slow, writhing movement of a snake.



### SOLDIER-STATESMAN

One of Wolfe's most trusted officers, Sir Guy Carleton (later Lord Dorchester) was Governor of Quebec four times between 1766 and 1796, and British Commander-in-Chief in America 1782-3. He played a big part in the Quebec Act of 1774, which upheld the rights of French-speaking citizens, and did much to keep Canada under the British flag.

### EGG-LAYING MAMMAL

The Duck-billed Platypus is found only in certain rivers of Australia and Tasmania. It has four webbed feet and lays eggs, two at a time, in underground burrows. Its cry resembles the growl of a puppy.





## COFFEE-CUP TAMER

High up on the plateau of Abyssinia a young man born in the far-off island of Haiti is teaching Ethiopians how to cultivate their wild coffee. Pierre Sylvain is his name, but they call him "coffee-cup tamer."

Wild coffee grows abundantly in Haile Selassie's country, and Pierre's job is to coax the berries into the world's coffee-cups. He allows his coffee-pickers to take only the best berries from the bushes, and urges them to be careful how they dry them.

He has set up miles of portable trays mounted on posts where the berry lies in the sun and gradually works off all the earthy, woody flavour which the wild Berry carries with it. The sun makes the coffee, is Pierre Sylvain's motto.

When the hull round the bean has been removed, then the bean itself must be kept clean. Dirt spoils the flavour.

The next taming process is to train the Ethiopians to use their sense of taste; up to now they have not been good coffee tasters, and so the world has not drunk Abyssinia's coffee.

Pierre Sylvain believes that in time Ethiopia will fill up the world's coffee cups with a delicious new coffee, and give the farmers of Abyssinia a good market.

## ANCIENT INHABITANT

A fossilised bone which a school-boy of Slough found in a claypit has turned out to be a discovery of first-class importance. It is a neck vertebra of an ophthalmosaurus, an extinct swimming reptile that lived a hundred million years ago or more.

The discoverer of this ancient relic is David Halstead, the Head Boy of Orchard Modern School at Slough. He was surprised and proud when he was asked to present it to the British Museum.

## Sporting Flashbacks

WITH TEST MATCHES AHEAD, GREATER CARE THAN EVER IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PREPARATION OF THE PITCHES ON WHICH ENGLAND WILL MEET THE AUSTRALIANS...

TIMES HAVE CHANGED:

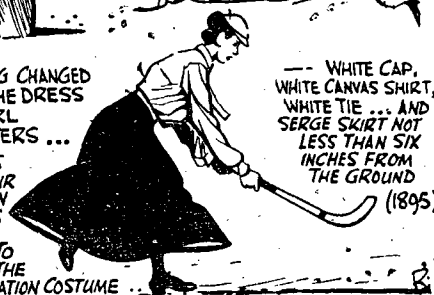
IN 1830, 400 TO 500 SHEEP ON THEIR WAY TO SMITHFIELD MARKET WERE TURNED ON TO LORD'S CRICKET GROUND EVERY SATURDAY AND LEFT TO GRAZE OVER THE WEEK-END... THIS KEPT THE GRASS SHORT.

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## UGANDA CELEBRATES 60 EVENTFUL YEARS

April 1 is a diamond jubilee date for Uganda. On that day 60 years ago the Union Jack first flew at Kampala, where seven green hills overlook mighty Lake Victoria.

That African territory thus became Britain's responsibility. Today, Uganda Protectorate's five million people, including 33,000 Indians and 3500 Europeans, have prosperous agriculture and expanding industry.

In 1862, Speke was the first white man to reach the capital of Mtesa, Uganda's ruler. Though primitive, the kingdom was well organised; Mtesa, vain but intelligent, was friendly.

Governments of the Sudan (including the great General Gordon) hoped to incorporate northern Uganda, but British statesmen dissuaded them.

Then came the visit of H. M. Stanley, the explorer-journalist who found Livingstone. Uganda's black monarch questioned him about Christianity, and agreed to accept missionaries.

"Here, gentlemen, is your opportunity—embrace it!" Stanley wrote home in 1875.

The letter inspired the Church Missionary Society. Eight men sailed, braving tropical fevers and the hazardous 700-mile trek from Mombasa.

"Within six months you will probably hear that one of us is dead," wrote engineer-missionary Alexander Mackay. "Send someone immediately to take the place."

### BRAVE PIONEERS

A year later only four remained. But Mackay, with workshop and forge near Mtesa's court, taught Africans new crafts and mastered their language.

Mtesa's death in 1884 was a turning-point. His son, 18-year-old Mwanga, cruelly persecuted native converts, and instigated the murder of Bishop Hannington, who was approaching Uganda.

"Tell Mwanga that I have purchased the road to Uganda with my life," were the bishop's dying words.

Mackay, however, stood firm, and Africans rallied to him. At last, in 1888, after plotting to fling all Christians into the crocodile-in-

festes King's Lake, the guilty Mwanga fled.

A Royal Charter was granted to the British East Africa Company, and Captain F. D. Lugard—destined to become a renowned Colonial administrator—supervised vital work. Mwanga was restored, but only for seven years.

Meanwhile, Uganda's ferment crippled the Charter Company's finances and forced its withdrawal. Lugard urged the British Government's protection, and on April 1, 1893, the flag fluttered over Kampala fort.

Near that historic site, houses, gardens, shops, and offices now line Kampala's broad streets. About 25 miles away is Entebbe, the seat of Government, where Comet jetliners land at a magnificent new airport.

Cotton is Uganda's mainstay. Coffee, hides, tea, and sisal swell its exports, worth £50,000,000 a year.

A £10,000,000 Development Plan, a fine road network, and the Owen Falls hydro-electric scheme are factors vital to the progress of the country.

## GIVING IS THEIR BUSINESS

Five brothers in the United States have turned themselves into a company to give away the millions of dollars they have inherited from their famous father, John D. Rockefeller II.

The eldest is John Rockefeller III, and the others are Nelson, Laurence, Winthrop, and David. They call themselves Rockefeller Brothers Incorporated, and their business is to make the world a better place to live in.

If a corner of India, say, or South America, can be cleaned up and made to grow food, the brothers regard that as a good return for their money. They have put £10,000,000 into developing better farming and marketing in South America, and in Brazil they are fighting smallpox and setting up a range of information centres to tell people how to live more healthily.

Nelson Rockefeller says that years ago "big money went wherever it could make the greatest profit. In this century it must go where it can render the greatest service."

The brothers want their millions to make good neighbours, and whenever their plans begin to show stability then the brothers pass on what they have created to local people, and look for a fresh adventure in service.

## FASTER TRAINS

The Royal Scot is to knock 30 minutes off its time from Euston to Glasgow this summer, improvements to the track permitting higher speeds. Over most of the west coast route to Scotland, for example, a maximum speed of 90 m.p.h. is now allowed.

The Elizabethan, which goes into service on June 29, will cover the 392½ miles from King's Cross to Edinburgh in 6½ hours—that is, 22 minutes faster than last summer.

## WITH MACKENZIE IN THE FAR WEST—picture-story of a thrilling journey (1)

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, one of Canada's greatest explorers, and the first white man to cross the Rocky Mountains, is believed to have been born at Inverness in 1755. As a young man he went to Canada to take part in

the fur trade. In those days the vast western regions of the country were unknown to Europeans, and Mackenzie, a man of boundless courage and resource, was consumed with curiosity to know what lay to the north and west.

His first canoe voyage was an attempt to reach the Frozen Sea (Arctic Ocean) from Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabasca. He had to make sure of getting there and back before winter blocked the rivers with ice.



On June 3, 1789, Mackenzie left Fort Chipewyan with 12 companions—four French Canadians and the wives of two of them, a German, an Indian nicknamed "English Chief" and his two wives, and two other Indians. Another Canadian was to accompany them part of the way with extra stores. The daring explorers set out for the unknown in three canoes.



Their course lay along the Slave River, named after an Indian tribe. Often they had to carry their canoes past rapids. Near a waterfall one of the Indians' canoes was carried out from the bank while a woman was still in it. She saved herself by leaping out just before the canoe went over the fall and was dashed to pieces on the rocks below.



They reached the Slave Lake and found it still covered with winter ice, save for a narrow channel near the shore. For 12 difficult days they cruised close to the shore, then a few of them landed with stores to await Mackenzie's return. He sailed on and found the entrance to the great river which was afterwards to bear his name. The weather grew colder.



They met some Slave Indians who told them it would take "several winters" to reach the sea. They spoke of strange terrors in the North—horrible monsters, an evil spirit called the Manitou which swallowed everyone who came near it, and people who could kill you by looking at you. Mackenzie laughed, but his own Indians were dismayed.

What dangers are awaiting Mackenzie in the unknown lands ahead? See next week's instalment



Thrilling new serial of adventure in Norway

**TUESDAY ADVENTURE**

by John Pudney

Fred and I go to Norway with Uncle George, who is working on a secret project. On the way we meet Malcolm Murdoch, who acts suspiciously. On the ship he sends a radiogram saying that he will operate on Tuesday. In Norway, Fred and I get into an old quarry tub, which runs away into a mountain lake. We reach the shore, and then see a man paddling a boat. It is Malcolm Murdoch.

**3. Underground photos**

THERE was no doubt about it. The man was Malcolm Murdoch—and the boat he was paddling was the collapsible dinghy we had seen in his luggage. Moreover, around his neck, dangling just beneath his red beard, was the Flashray camera—the twin of Uncle George's Flashray, which I was still clutching under my shirt.

Do you blame us for hiding? We were both quite sure that Murdoch had lied about his motor-bike. He might not have lied to Uncle George when he said that he was going to spend a holiday painting water-colours in the fjords, but a Flashray camera and a rubber dinghy seemed a strange load for an artist. Then there was the radio message about operating on Tuesday. Was it likely that a painter would operate?

And, as I happened to remember, it was Tuesday.

**Brainwave!**

FRED nudged me. Through the crannies of the rocks where we were hidden, we could see that Murdoch had stopped rowing. He paused to uncover the front of his Flashray camera, and after manoeuvring the dinghy he began to take pictures. He worked with care, systematically covering the whole place.

"We'd better duck when he points it this way," Fred whispered as Murdoch moved slowly round, splashing with his paddle. "Remember the Flashray would show us looking through the rocks."

"Plenty of time for that, Fred; and I've got a brainwave. Just in case Uncle George says we've been imagining things..."

I fished out our own Flashray and undid the watertight flap. I held it against one of the larger crannies, where there was enough light coming through for me to see the knob that has to be adjusted on these cameras when there is little or no light. The ray they send out to take the picture does not, of course, make a flash that can be seen.

I held the camera against the top of the cranny and focused through the viewfinder. I took several pictures before Murdoch began paddling toward a ledge close by.

When he reached this and clambered ashore, lifting the dinghy clear of the water, we both had a moment of panic. If he were going to explore all the ledges, we should have to move.

"Better scout along this ledge and see what we come to," whispered Fred. "We don't want him to work his way along here and corner us."

The ledge was mostly in shadow. The surface was dry and dusty and our canvas shoes made no sound. We soon found that there were several galleries leading off it above water level. We were sure we were in a disused mine.

"This will give us a chance to dodge him if the worst comes to the worst. We'll have to trust to luck where these galleries lead."

"We'd better wait here till we see which way he's working."

Murdoch had put down his camera and was using what looked like some listening device. Over his ears he had clamped down large metallic flaps. These connected to a rod that opened out rather like a trumpet, the end of which he was holding against the rock face.

"Reminds me of an outsize doctor's stethoscope," said Fred. "Pity you can't get a picture of that too."

"I could, but he's too far away to show what he's really doing."

I sneaked back and did my best to take a photograph. But before I was ready Murdoch turned and came toward us. Though we were

well out of sight, we did not wait. We had already decided to make use of the widest gallery. It looked as if it might end in daylight, though there was a kink about halfway along that prevented us from seeing the far end.

Just where the kink was we discovered a mass of workings leading far off from a largish open space that was lit from above as the lake had been. We agreed that I should keep watch while Fred went on to the end of the gallery, where daylight was pouring in.

There was still no sign of Murdoch when Fred came running back. "It ends in air," he said. "It just comes out in the middle of a precipice. You can see other mountains and the waters of some fjord down below. We're still quite high up—high enough to make me giddy, at any rate."

"We'll have to find some other way..." The words were hardly spoken when I caught sight of Murdoch entering the gallery. He was moving slowly, turning from side to side, using his listening device.

"I'll stand watch still, Fred, while you find the best place for us to hide ourselves. There seems to be some sort of gallery above us. So long as it's got two entrances, I think that'll be our best bet."

It was. It had been hewn out of the rock like a low gallery built round a meeting hall. There was even a rough stone balustrade going most of the way round it that gave us plenty of hiding space.

**Hiding-place**

The place might very well have been a loading bay, for there was a complete system of rails leading out of the various dark cavities, and there were gaps in the balustrade through which tubs could have been emptied to the lower level.

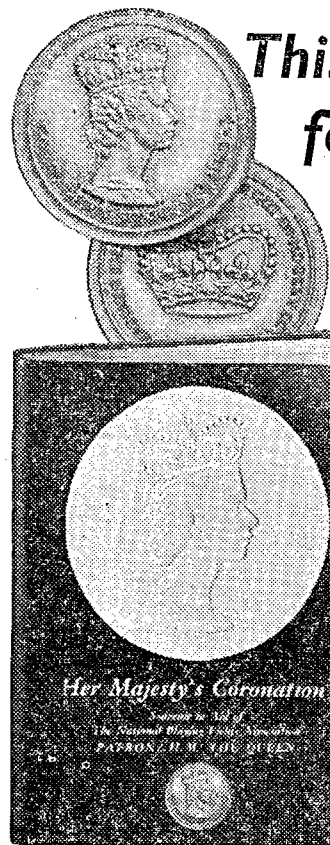
Below us now, Murdoch was making a very thorough exploration—and it was pretty clear that this had nothing to do with water-colour painting. When he reached the open space he slipped the headphones down over his neck so that they did not become entangled with his camera. He unhung this to take more photographs. He was as systematic as he had been in the cavern, swinging round slowly to take a complete picture of everything on the lower level.

"Let's have a go," whispered Fred, pulling gently at our Flashray.

He was in a better position than I to get pictures, so I slipped the strap over my head and passed the camera to him. He was able to get some very good side and back shots of Murdoch, closer than those I had taken in the cavern.

Even better was to come. Murdoch slipped on the earphones again, and began to poke and prod about with his rod. "Now's your chance, Fred. You'll get some wonderful pictures of this."

Continued on page 10



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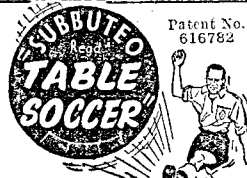
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## Coronation Corner

### The lucky ones

From Northern Ireland 192 schoolboys and girls over 14 are coming in Coronation week to stay at the L.C.C.'s Marchant's Hill school camp at Hindhead, Surrey. They have been selected from 600 applicants.

Prince Bernhard will represent his wife, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, at the Coronation.

Richmond, Surrey, plans to give Coronation presents to Servicemen from the town who are in Malaya and Korea.

Marian Ogden, 13, of Englefield Green, near Egham, who is one of two girls chosen to represent Surrey Girl Guides at the Coronation. "You can imagine how thrilled I am," she writes to the C.N.



A Coronation year exhibition of Royal Yachts at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich is to be opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on May 8. Models, pictures, and documents will illustrate Royal Yachts since the time when the first one was given to Charles II by the Dutch.

### Nimble feet

Young people of Harrow are to perform a folk dance pageant in the streets on June 4. They will start outside Harrow-on-the-Hill railway station and go to a school playground at Wealdstone.

London Girl Guides are producing an historical pageant called Royal Sovereign at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 11, 13, and 14. Devised and produced by Ralph Reader, it will depict history as seen from London's river.

The R.A.F. will provide nearly 8000 officers, airmen, and airwomen, and eleven bands for Coronation Day in London. Over 2000 of them will lead the Services in the procession from Westminster Abbey.

### Children's concert

The Robert Mayer Concerts for Children are to give a Coronation Concert on May 16 at 11 a.m. in London's Royal Festival Hall. The London Symphony Orchestra and Harriet Cohen will perform. Applications for seats should be sent before April 16 to the box office.

The three water-towers of Leeds, visible for miles, are to be lit during Coronation week to make "umbrellas" of coloured lights. A Coronation Overture which is being composed by a music lecturer at Leeds University, Mr. Francis Mumby, will be played by the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra at a special concert on June 9.

### Sheffield steel

Appropriate Coronation gifts from the great steel city of Sheffield to its boys and girls will be 26,000 pairs of scissors to the schoolgirls, and 28,000 pocket knives to the schoolboys.

Scouts and Cubs of London's East End are to hold a huge Coronation Rally at Victoria Park, Hackney, on June 20, which will be visited by the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan. Displays will include trek-cart racing, a pageant, camping demonstration, cycle teams, and so on.

### Colour film

A colour film of the Coronation is to be made by British Movietone. It will show the Queen's procession from Buckingham Palace and back, as well as the crowning ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

## TUESDAY ADVENTURE

Continued from page 9

We worked almost as steadily as Murdoch himself, taking it in turns to get our pictures, first from one gap and then from another. This was the perfect test of the powers of the Flashray. And what a scoop to take back to Uncle George!

The excitement of photographing Murdoch and his strange apparatus from all angles made us a bit too bold, and we were taken completely by surprise when he suddenly began to climb to the upper level, holding his camera in one hand and his rod in the other.

There was nothing we could do but scuttle into the nearest passage, dark and uninviting though it was.

Luck was on our side. We had made the best of all possible choices. We blundered around a curve and almost at once came upon steps, spiralling up out of the side of the shaft.

A chilly mountain wind was blowing down the steps, and with it came daylight. Without caring how much noise we were making, we raced upward.

We had found a way out, and this time it was not on the face

of a precipice. Breathless and excited, we came out into a cave. Sunlight was pouring into the mouth of it. Outside there were snowy slopes. It was a wild, lonely white place, a cave on the side of a steep valley between snowy peaks.

We stood there with a wonderful sense of freedom, gulping down fresh mountain air. Neither of us had ever admitted that we had felt trapped down there with Murdoch. Yet we felt like singing as we stood there in the snow.

"Now we can really take those mountain pictures," said Fred, for the sake of something to say.

"Give me the camera, Fred. We'll have a picture of you coming out of the depths."

"But you've got the camera, haven't you?"

A cloud went over the sun at that moment, and a shiver went through both of us as we stood there looking at one another.

Whoever was at fault, it was clear that Uncle George's precious Flashray had been left behind down there in the workings.

To be continued

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## THE BRAN TUB

### BATH-TIME BLISS

THOUGH soap and water some boys shun,  
Tommy thinks bath-time is fun.  
Matchbox barges he has got,  
And, of course, his sailing yacht;  
Little walnut-shell canoes  
Manned by wooden matchstick crews.  
No wonder he, though black with grime,  
Says that washing wastes his time!

### What am I?

"MODEST and sweet," would describe me truly;  
Add a letter to my name and I become unruly.

Answer next week

### Waste

"YOU should write on both sides of the paper," said the editor to an author of doubtful talent.  
"But you won't accept stories written on both sides."  
"I know, but you'd save paper."

### OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter and Mars are low in the west, and Saturn is in the south-east. There are no planets visible in the morning. The picture shows the Moon as it appears at 9.30 on Wednesday evening, April 1.



## BEDTIME CORNER

### The tale of a musical mouse

It was quite by chance that Milly found fame as a musical mouse.

She lived with her brothers and sisters in a hole in the wainscoting beneath the platform in the school hall.

On the last day of term, after the children had gone, Milly was snooping behind the piano on the platform when she heard the caretaker coming.

"He mustn't see me!" she squeaked, and began climbing wildly up the back of the piano. But half-way up she spotted one of the hand-holes which make moving a piano easier. She popped in and looked around.

"What a cosy place!" she cried. "I shall live here!"

Presently, when all was quiet, and she wanted to go out for supper, she spied some handy wires running up beside her entry hole, and she began to climb them.

Tung! Tong! Tang! Ting! went the piano strings as she clutched them. And when she

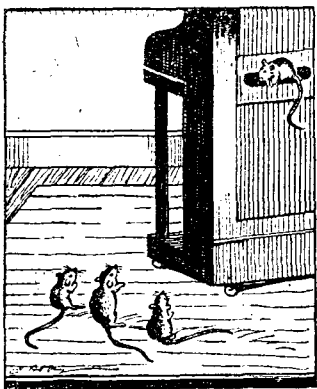
popped out of the hand-hole she saw her family sitting on the platform applauding.

All the school holidays she delighted them with her music undisturbed, but the first morning of school the caretaker came in early and heard Milly playing: Tung! Tong! Tang! Ting! on her way to breakfast.

"Shoo! Shoo!" he went with his broom. And Milly, confused and frightened, darted out into the playground to hide. But before she could safely return to her old home in the wainscoting it began raining, and she got soaked.

For days she was laid up with a bad cold, and thought sadly how dull it would be now she was no longer the famous musical mouse.

But lo and behold! when her cold was better, if she hurried or breathed deeply she made the most wonderful singing noises! And soon her family were prouder than ever of their musical sister. JANE THORNICROFT



## JACKO HATCHES AN EGG PLOT



Knowing that short-sighted old Professor Pongo was out making nature notes, Jacko and Chimp built a nest and placed in it their giant cardboard Easter Egg. When the Professor caught sight of it he was delighted at his wonderful find. "Ah!" he exclaimed, "this must be the egg of the Giant Squawk. I must take it home," he went on, "but it is much too big for me to carry; I'll fetch a wheelbarrow." And away he went. What a disappointment he had on his return! The chums, of course, had removed the egg, leaving an empty nest.

### Flower legends

ANEMONE was a beautiful nymph of whom the wind god Zephyrus was very fond. Chloris the goddess of flowers, was jealous and drove Anemone from her court into the woods. Here she was found by Zephyrus, and in sorrow he transformed her into a flower—the pink-tipped anemone.

### Sammy Simple

SAMMY has tried two or three times to see what he looks like when he is asleep by standing in front of a mirror with his eyes closed!

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

THE DABCHICK. "There's a moorhen," said Ann to her brother, as they approached the Long-pond.

Don caught a glimpse of a very dark bird, with chestnut flanks, before it slipped into the tall rushes. "It didn't have a tail and it looked too small for a moorhen," he replied.

"It was a dabchick, or little grebe," remarked Farmer Gray, overhearing. "They are found in similar places to moorhens, but belong to a different family. Dabchicks are excellent swimmers and divers. When alarmed, they sometimes swim with only their heads above water, or even entirely under water. Small fish and water-insects form much of their food."

### Easter Egg problem

"A RIBBONED Easter Egg costs sixpence-halfpenny. Now listen carefully," said Mr. Peach;

"The egg costs sixpence more than its gay ribbon. What is the individual cost of each?"

The Easter Egg costs 6d. and the ribbon 1d.

### CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two of the second, and so on.

1. Mineral which, being transparent and cleaving easily into thin plates, was once used for windows; is still employed for other purposes where heat would make glass unsuitable.

2. North American animal closely related to the reindeer; one variety, migrating with the annual change of weather, moves far into the Arctic Circle.

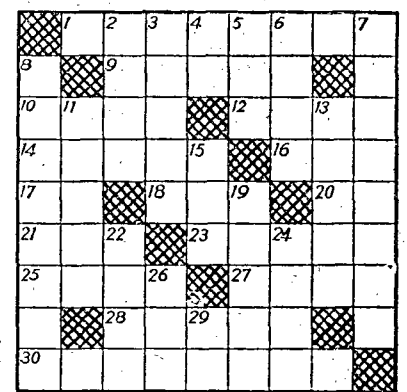
3. Market town of Northamptonshire, famous for its public school founded in the 16th century.

4. Former capital of Russia, under the name of St. Petersburg, and later, Petrograd; established on the River Neva by Peter the Great.

Answer next week

## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Argued logically. 9 We eat off it. 10 Eager. 12 One of the Celtic peoples. 14 Cut into small cubes. 16 Cease to exist. 17 Rugby League. 18 Sped. 20 North Riding (of Yorkshire). 21 Unwell. 23 Scoops water from a boat. 25 Prison. 27 Accomplished. 28 Green spot in desert. 30 Moved clumsily. READING DOWN. 2 Poem of heroism. 3 Tree. 4 South Africa. 5 Officers' Training Corps. 6 Want. 7 Discouraged. 8 Part-song for several voices. 11 Country house. 13 Cloth woven from flax. 15 Kind of flat-fish. 19 Lowest point. 22 Machine for weaving yarn into fabric. 24 Misplace. 26 Laboratory. 29 South-east.



Answer next week

### Easter customs

MANY of our Easter customs have been derived from old pagan festivals. The name Easter comes from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring, in whose honour a festival was held in April.

The exchanging of coloured eggs is one of the oldest of Easter customs, for it is a symbol of the Resurrection. According to one legend, coloured eggs are the gift of the rabbit on Easter Eve. That is why Easter greetings cards so often show a rabbit amid coloured eggs and white lilies.

### Bad miss

SAID a lazy old lady from Hurley,  
"I must catch the first train to Purley."  
But we're sorry to state  
She arrived far too late,  
For she simply did not get up early.

### Only natural

WHY did the cow slip?  
It saw the water fall.

### RIDDLE ME REE

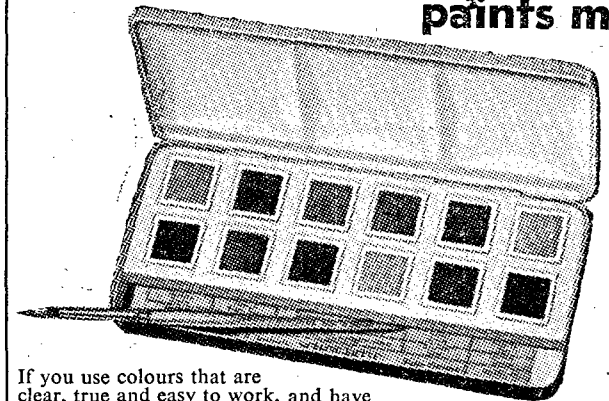
MY first is in seven and also in eight;  
My second's in early and also in late;  
My third is in smiling but not in laugh;  
My fourth is in wheat but not in chaff;  
My fifth is in bluebells but not in wood;  
My sixth is in better but not in good;  
My next is in paper but not in ink;  
My eighth is in learning but not in think;  
My ninth is in guilty and also in guile;  
My tenth is in fences and also in stile.  
My whole is a treat that we welcome each year.  
The bigger the better! Their time now draws near.

Answer next week

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden places. Chatham  
Riddle in rhyme. Brimstone  
Chain Quiz  
Snipe, Peter (the Great), Erin, Indus

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